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(54) METHOD FOR STORING AND REPRODUCING OPTICAL INFORMATION

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To store information in a thin film made of an aggregate of microcrystals having regular atomic arrangement by irradiating light pulses which are different from each other in power and time on the thin film capable of taking two or more kinds of stable state having different optical characteristics so that the thin film takes one kind of stable state.

CONSTITUTION: Since information is stored by transition between two kinds of state in a thermodynamically stable crystal phase, it can be retained stably for a long period. A material for a microcrystalline thin film capable of taking two or more kinds of stable state having different crystal structures and different optical characteristics includes a compound (alloy) consisting of 20W60 atomic% indium and 40W80 atomic% antimony. En information is recorded, modulation current for

intensely modulating a laser diode 1 by a signal to be recorded is superimposed on the diode 1. When recorded information is vanished, a straight light beam is irradiated on the desired recorded part. At this time, optical powder necessary for vanishment is superimposed on a light beam for reproduction.

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